

Energy Efficiency Accomplishments

The management of water and power are inextricably linked: the Department of Water Resources (DWR) generates power at its State Water Project (SWP) Powerplants and uses energy to move water to users and conduct its day-to-day business. DWR is committed to minimizing its impacts on the environment by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). This goal is strongly supported by the Schwarzenegger administration.

In 2006, the Legislature adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which mandates a program of regulatory and market mechanisms dedicated to achieving quantifiable, cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in California. Energy efficiency and renewable energy are essential elements for meeting AB 32 goals.

The next year, DWR joined the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) and began to gather documentation and refine the analyses of carbon emissions from DWR power sources. The CCAR is a private non-profit organization originally formed by the State to develop and promote accurate and consistent GHG reporting standards and tools for organizations. CCAR members voluntarily measure, verify, and publicly report their GHG emissions. In 2008 and 2009, DWR reported its previous year's GHG emissions to the CCAR and was one of only a handful of state agencies to have earned the title of "Climate Action Leader" two years in a row.

Additional DWR actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency:

- DWR has already met the 2020 AB 32 goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels, 12 years ahead of schedule.
- The State Water Project (SWP) will not renew its contract for energy from the Reid Gardner Powerplant, a coal fired plant located in Nevada, which provides power to the SWP. The expiration date of the contract is July 2013.
- DWR has established large scale energy efficiency programs at the Hyatt Powerplant and Edmonston Pumping Plant. By 2011, these improvements will conserve enough electricity to power 16,000 households annually. The corresponding reduction in GHG emissions will be equivalent to eliminating emissions from 9,000 vehicles annually.
- DWR is analyzing the feasibility of installing new small hydroelectric generators in several areas of the SWP, including a generator at Alamo Powerplant near Gorman. This smaller generator can be qualified as a certified renewable energy resource.
- Groundbreaking for construction of a new state of the art, highly efficient natural gas plant in Lodi occurred in mid-July 2010. The SWP has contract rights approximately one third of output from this facility, which has one of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions rates in California and possibly the nation.
- Reducing emissions has also expanded to DWR's retail electricity use for powering its offices and heating systems. As part of SMUD's carbon off-set and Greenery programs, DWR has contracted to have 33 percent of its total retail electricity be from renewable resources and purchased carbon offsets for 33 percent of its natural gas consumption used to heat buildings.

DWR has made great strides in implementing 10 initiatives for greening business operations. These include:

- Increased energy efficiency for buildings.
- Dissemination of environmentally preferable purchasing practices to the Department's buyers to encourage more eco-friendly purchasing.
- Organization of a green week to raise awareness regarding green operations.
- Reduction of DWR's junk mail with the help of mailroom staff and a non-profit Web site.
- Promotion of electronic resources that can be found on the Web.
- Reduction of greenhouse gases for the vehicle fleet.
- Continued promotion of greening DWR workplace practices, procedures and maintenance of its facilities.

